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prediction. We are ready to declare, however, that waterfalls and steam seem to us to possess a vantage ground, not likely to be attained by any of the other powers to which it has been supposed that these must give place.

Many countries are traversed by rivers, whose falls furnish mill powers sufficient for all their manufacturing purposes, as now conducted. Our own country, especially in its northern and eastern parts, is abundantly supplied with these without laying the hand upon Niagara. But when, from an increase of population, that shall be required to drive the spindle and the loom, — and to such uses it must come, however loud the remonstrances of lovers of the picturesque, — it will be found, computing from a common estimate of its quantity of water, equal to the constant labor of some four or five millions of horses; a power greater than all the zinc, copper, and sulphur mines in the world, turned into charged galvanic batteries, and applied to excite electro-magnetism, will produce. And this power can be obtained merely by digging a few canals, and building a few water-wheels.

Again, in countries not possessed of waterfalls, or for purposes to which these cannot be applied, the steam-engine, strong in limb and of enduring substance, is at hand, yielding from the combustion of a bit of coal no larger than an English walnut, a power sufficient to raise a man from the pavement to the cross of St. Paul's.* Is electro-magnetism likely to furnish an equal power from equal means? For us we can see no chance for its success. It is not in the cards.

9. — *Giornale di Statistica compilato dagl' Impiegati nella Direzione Centrale della Statistica di Sicilia. Primo Quatrimestre.* Palermo. Presso la Reale Stamperia. 1836. 8vo. pp. 152.

This is the first number of a quarterly Statistical Journal, published in Sicily. The first article is an essay on the theory of statistics, showing the meaning of the term, and the character and limits of the science. The second is an article translated from the Edinburgh Review, on British statistics; and this is followed by short notices of several works on the statistics of

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* With the best constructed Cornish engines, a bushel, 2150 cubic inches, of coal, will form steam to raise 94 millions of pounds, one foot high. Consequently one inch raises 43,720 pounds, one foot high; or 126 pounds, three hundred and fifty feet high.

Italy and Sicily. Part Second contains a tabular view of the population of Sicily, in 1831, compared with the population of 1798; tables of the regular ecclesiastics of the island, existing at the end of 1832; and a bulletin of statistical statements, drawn from England, France, Germany, &c., and embracing, not only population, deaths, &c., but every kind of public improvement, such as bridges and railroads. In running our eye over the pages of this number, we have been struck with the extent and variety of the facts, so laboriously collected by the editors, and the scientific form in which they are arranged.

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10. — *An Elementary Treatise on Plane and Solid Geometry.* By Benjamin Peirce, A. M., University Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Harvard University. Boston. James Munroe and Company. 1837. pp. 159.

In mathematics, no less than in politics and most other things, there are two opposing principles which greatly influence the minds of men; the desire of improvement on the one hand, and the love of old things on the other. Accordingly, there are two sects or schools of mathematics; the lovers of what is commonly called the Old Geometry, who seem to consider the postulates, definitions, axioms, and reasoning of Euclid as the only safe instruments for the discovery or proof of mathematical truths; and the students of the Cartesian analysis, and its offspring, the Differential and Integral Calculus, who value the old Geometry only because it furnishes them with certain elementary truths, which serve as the basis of their further reasonings. With the latter school, the old Geometry is one of the door-stones at the entrance of the magnificent temple of mathematical science. The former are not content to use it for this purpose. They insist upon it, that they will go no further, unless they can have this identical door-stone to walk on all the way; and they stand, striving to carry or push it along with them, and with about as much success as a man might have, who should sagaciously attempt to lift himself in a basket, or by the waistband of his own unmentionables. Nay more, they not only stand still themselves, but they will have it that their neighbours, who have gone in to the interior of the temple, are not certainly there, cannot be rigorously proved to be there; and in fact, that having once stepped from the magic stone, they have lost forthwith all power of determining whether they go backward or forward, or whether they move at all.